

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06864 091517Z  
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 SCS-06 ISO-00 /009 W  
-----013875 091525Z /46  
P 091418Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7156

UNCLAS ATHENS 6864

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, GR, (WIRT, JAN)  
SUBJECT: W/W JAN WIRT

H-PASS  
SENATOR LAWTON CHILES  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, DC

1. REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR INQUIRY OF JULY 10, 1978 TO THE ASSISTANT

SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, REGARDING THE DIFFICULTY  
EXPERIENCED BY MRS. JAN WIRT DURING HER RECENT VISIT TO ATHENS.

2. OUR FILES INDICATE THAT SHORTLY PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON  
FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1978, A GREEK HOSPITAL DOCTOR CALLED THE EMBASSY ON  
BEHALF OF MRS. WIRT CONCERNING HER WISH TO HAVE HER MOTHER, MRS. IDA  
BECK, FLY TO THE UNITED STATES BY MILITARY OR EMBASSY PLANE FOR  
TREATMENT OF A BROKEN HIP. A CONSULAR ASSISTANT EXPLAINED TO MRS.  
WIRT THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NO SUCH FACILITIES, THAT MILITARY  
MEDEVAC COULD TAKE PLACE ONLY IF THE PATIENT WERE REFUSED COMMERCIAL  
FACILITIES AND THAT EVEN THEN MEDEVAC CHARGES WOULD EXCEED THE  
COST OF A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT.  
MRS. WIRT STATED THAT HER MOTHER WAS INSURED AND THAT SHE NEEDED TO  
COMMUNICATE WITH THE INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.  
A CONSULAR EMPLOYEE WAS SENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO ACT AS AN INTERPRETER  
AND ASSIST HER IN CONTACTING GENEVA BY TELEPHONE.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06864 091517Z

3. AS NO EMBASSY CAR WAS AVAILABLE, THE CONSULAR EMPLOYEE USED HIS  
OWN CAR TO CALL AT THE HOSPITAL AND TAKE MRS. WIRT TO THE GREEK  
TELEPHONE OFFICE OF THE AREA. AFTER CONTACT WAS MADE WITH THE  
INSURANCE COMPANY AND MRS. WIRT WAS INFORMED THAT ARRANGEMENTS  
WOULD BE MADE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF MRS. BECK TO THE UNITED  
STATES, THE CONSULAR EMPLOYEE DROVE MRS. WIRT TO A TAXI STATION

TO TAKE A TAXI FOR RETURN TO HER HOTEL. BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING WEEKEND, HE SUGGESTED THAT SHE CALL THE CONSULAR DUTY OFFICER AT THE EMBASSY FOR ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE OR SERVICE SHE MIGHT NEED. HE ALSO CHECKED WITH HER HOTEL REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF HER AND MRS. BECK'S LUGGAGE, WHICH MRS. WIRT FEARED HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE GROUP WITH WHICH THEY WERE TRAVELLING.

4. THERE IS NO RECORD THAT MRS. WIRT COMMUNICATED WITH THE EMBASSY AT ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO THE ABOVE DATE. HAD SHE ATTEMPTED TO DO SO, EVERY EFFORT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO HER, FOR YOUR CONSTITUENT'S ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT; THERE IS A RECEPTIONIST AND MARINE SECURITY GUARD ON DUTY AT THE EMBASSY 24 HOURS, SEVEN DAYS PER WEEK, AND A DUTY OFFICER ON CALL AT ALL TIMES.

5. ACCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT INCURRED BY MRS. BECK ARE UNFORTUNATELY NOT UNCOMMON IN GREECE. WHILE THE EMBASSY IS ALWAYS READY TO LEND ANY FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WITHIN OUR AUTHORITY, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO DICTATE TO THE AIRLINES OR TO THE MEDICAL AUTHORITIES HOW SUCH CASES SHOULD BE HANDLED. AS THE PROCEDURES ARE NECESSARILY EXPENSIVE, UNCOMFORTABLE AND TIME-CONSUMING, THE UNDERSTANDABLE FRUSTRATIONS OF THE ACCIDENT VICTIM AND THEIR FAMILY ARE OFTEN FOCUSED ON THE EMBASSY.

AMERICAN EMBASSY

ATHENS, GREECE

MCCLOSKEY

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PAGE 03     ATHENS 06864 091517Z

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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